



State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives
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GOVERNOR WILLIAM BLOUNT
(1749-1800)
PAPERS
1790-1796

Territory of the United States of America South Of the River
Ohio

(GP 1)

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The majority of the Territorial Governor's correspondence deals with the establishment of peace along a frontier with the Indians to the extent that overland access between the two parts of the Territory was through Indian country, over which the Indians at times exacted tribute for passage. The difficulty of government was also compounded by the fact that the Territorial Governor had his residence at Knoxville, whereas the Territorial Secretary, Daniel Smith, habitually resided in Nashville. There is also some discussion of the treaty with Spain, which directly affected the Mero (Middle Tennessee) District. There is an interesting feature in connection with the proceedings of the Territorial Assembly; the Territorial Governor saved manpower by himself acting as Speaker of the Senate.

So scant is the available material within these files that it has been decided to file as part of the record a copy of the Blount Journal, a fully indexed, offset printed volume covering the complete administration of the Territorial Governor. Also included, for purposes of continuity, are letters from Senator Blount to Governor John Sevier, and a letter from the two Senators from Tennessee to the Governor having bearing on the electoral situation as regards to the new State.

[**GO TO INDEX TO LETTERS OF THE TENNESSEE GOVERNORS**](#)

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Governor William Blount

1749	March 26; born near Windsor, Bertie County; North Carolina; son of Jacob and Barbara (Gray) Blount
1778	February 12; married Mary Grainger; fathered six children
c. 1776	Entered the service of revolutionary North Carolina, served as paymaster of various units of North Carolina troops during the Revolution
1780-1784	Member of the North Carolina House Commons
1782-1783 1786-1787	Delegate from North Carolina to the U.S. Continental Congress
1787	Delegate from North Carolina to the U.S. Constitutional convention
1788-1790	Member of the North Carolina State Senate
1789	Member of the North Carolina Convention to Ratify the U.S. Constitution
1790-1796	June 8; Appointed by President George Washington as Governor of the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio; also appointed superintendent of Indian Affairs
1796	January; served as President of the Tennessee Constitutional Convention
1796	Elected by the State Legislature to the United States Senate
1797	July 8; expelled from the U.S. Senate by a vote of 25 to 1 when found to be in intrigue with Indians, frontiersmen, and British fleet relative to an attack on Spanish Florida and Louisiana
1798	Elected to the Tennessee State Senate, and served that body as Speaker
1800	March 21; died in Knoxville; buried in churchyard of the First Presbyterian Church

CONTAINER LIST

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1	**	Register
	1	Correspondence [Outgoing] 1790-1793
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	4	Warrants to William Rickard for payment of troops; 1795
	5	Miscellaneous Papers 1794
	6	Messages as Speaker of the State Senate 1798
	7	The Blount Journal and Index to the Blount Journal 1790-1796 [copy of original]